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FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8514  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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NA FOR DAS PALMER

S/R FOR MOSS

E.O. 12065/N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ICRC

SUBJ: ICRC PRISONS VISITATION PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA.

1. MISSION RECEIVED JULY 24, 1980 FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ICRC DETAILING PRISONS VISITATION PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA FOR 1980. COPIES OF ORIGINAL FRENCH TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (NA FOR PALMER, S/R FOR MOSS).

2. BEGIN TEXT. (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION).

1. BUENOS AIRES REGIONAL DELEGATION

9 DELEGATES, OF WHOM 2 PHYSICIANS AND ONE SPECIALIST OF CENTRAL RESEARCH AGENCY SENT FROM GENEVA ARE ATTACHED TO THE DELEGATION IN ARGENTINA, AND HAVE, SINCE JANUARY 1980, CONTINUED THEIR PROTECTIVE OPERATION ON BEHALF OF PERSONS DETAINED FOR SECURITY REASONS, BY VISITING THEM IN THEIR PLACES OF DETENTION AND BY GRANTING THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND THE ICRC HAS CONTINUED TAKING STEPS TOWARD LOCATING PERSONS REPORTED AS HAVING DISAPPEARED.

2. VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION

VISITS HAVE STARTED IN 1977.

AS A REMINDER, IN 1979, THE ICRC DELEGATES HAVE EFFECTED 38 VISITS TO 25 DIFFERENT PLACES OF DETENTION WHERE, AT THE END OF 1979, APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PERSONS WERE DETAINED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

FROM JANUARY TO THE END OF JUNE 1980, 18 VISITS WERE EFFECTED IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THE DELEGATES INTERVIEWED, WITHOUT WITNESSES, A CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 2,734 DETAINEES. AS USUAL THESE VISITS WERE THE OBJECT OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS TRANSMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. IN FEBRUARY THE DELEGATE GENERAL FOR LATIN AMERICA HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES WERE EXAMINED. THE CHIEF OF THE DELEGATION HAS FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

3. PERSONS REPORTED DISAPPEARED

THE DELEGATION HAS CONTINUED TO ESTABLISH FILES AND LISTS OF PERSONS REPORTED DISAPPEARED ON THE BASIS OF STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM CLOSE RELATIVES. SINCE 1977 APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CASES OF PERSONS REPORTED DISAPPEARED HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITIES.

TO-DATE, HOWEVER, NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED CONCERNING THESE CASES.

4. ASSISTANCE

IN 1980, ON A MONTHLY BASIS, THE ICRC HAS SENT A PACKAGE OF 15 KILOGRAMS OF WELFARE ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF FOODSTUFFS (WHEAT PRODUCTS, RICE, TEA, POWDERED MILK, WHEAT, SUGAR, OIL) TO SOME 900 INDIGENT FAMILIES OF DETAINEES.

IN THE PRISONS THE DELEGATES HAVE PROVIDED THE DETAINEES WITH LEISURE-TIME OBJECTS, MEDICAL APPLIANCES (DENTAL PROSTHESES, EYEGLASSES), MEDICINES AND HAVE GIVEN AMENITIES TO THE NEEDIEST DETAINEES SO AS TO PERMIT THEM TO DO SOME SHOPPING IN THE PRISON CANTEENS.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AMOUNTS TO FR.S. 600,000.

5. CENTRAL RESEARCH AGENCY

THE PRINCIPAL TASKS OF THE CENTRAL RESEARCH AGENCY DELEGATE CONSIST OF EXAMINING THE INFORMATION COLLECTED RELATIVE TO THE DETAINEES VISITED AND TO ESTABLISH FILES OF PERSONS PRESUMED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

THE GENERAL CARD-INDEX OF ALL THE DETAINEES VISITED CONTAINING INFORMATION SUCH AS THEIR DATES OF ARREST, ONE OR MORE PLACES OF DETENTION, VISITS EFFECTED BY THE ICRC, THEIR STATE OF HEALTH, THEIR PRISON STATUS (SENTENCED OR PEN) IS THUS KEPT UP-TO-DATE AS OF THE BEGINNING OF OUR VISITS IN 1977.

6. BUDGET ARGENTINA 1980

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HA FOR DAS PALMER

S/R FOR MOSS

SW. FRS.

1980 GENERAL BUDGET FOR ARGENTINA  
(SFR. 1,848,000)

BREAKDOWN:

A) OPERATIONAL COSTS: SALARIES AND SOCIAL CHARGES INCLUDING LOCAL PERSONNEL	674,200
MISSIONS COSTS (VISITS) AND DELEGATES LOCAL EXPENSES:	468,000
COST FOR EQUIPMENT, OFFICE RENT, PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE OF FURNITURE AND MISCELLANEOUS UPKEEPING EXPENSES	64,800
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	41,000
SUB-TOTAL	1,248,000
B) ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES AND IN PRISONS	600,000
TOTAL	1,848,000

FOR INFORMATION FROM JANUARY 1, 1980 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1980  
RELIEF ASSISTANCE AMOUNTED TO THE FOLLOWING:

ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS:

MEDICINES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS	30,498
CLOTHING	2,361
POCKET MONEY, SAVINGS FOR PURCHASES AT THE CANTEEN	14,916
MISCELLANEOUS	22,314

ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES:

GROCERY ITEMS	188,710
FINANCIAL AID	22,053
POSTAGE FOR SENDING PARCELS TO FAMILIES, TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE SHIPPED FROM SWITZERLAND, MISC.	18,382
TOTAL COST AT 6/30/1980	309,517
END TEXT. HELMAN	